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745 Glencoe Street
Denver, CO 80220

Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)
Food and Drug Administration
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061
Rockville, MD 20852

RE: **Docket No. 99F-2673**

To the Food and Drug Administration (FDA):

I strenuously object to the use of ionizing radiation on seeds for sprouting, particularly since you are not requiring that irradiated sprouts be labeled.

It is clear that irradiation of food decreases its nutritional value. This does not seem to be of any concern to you. It is of great concern to me.

Moreover, toxicity data on the sprouts that grow from irradiated seeds is inadequate. You do not know all of the radiolytic by-products of this process, and you cannot predict the effects of long-term consumption of irradiated food. Your approval of sprout irradiation is an abrogation of your responsibility to protect public health.

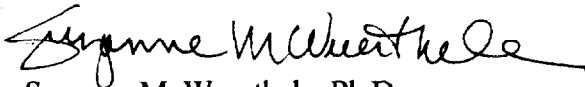
Sprouts resulting from irradiated seeds will not be labeled. I have a right to know what I am eating and your attempt to circumvent this knowledge is an abandonment of your responsibility to allow consumers to make informed choices about their diets.

Instead of maintaining a consumer advocate role, you've actually chosen to trick people into eating irradiated food. You changed the international symbol for irradiation, the radura, to a flower-like symbol resembling the Environmental Protection Agency's logo, because you know that people will reject any food they recognize as irradiated. You want to use a euphemism like "cold pasteurization" for irradiation so people won't know food is irradiated. Now you've approved an irradiated food without any labeling whatsoever.

Apparently, the food supply has become so filthy it's dangerous. If you were really doing the job taxpayers have a right to expect, you would force food producers to provide safe and healthy products. Instead, you allow industry to create nutritionally inferior foods of dubious safety, and promote those products by tricking people into eating them.

I used to admire FDA because of its fine scientists, but I believe it has taken on the interests of corporations, not consumers, and I no longer trust FDA to protect my food.

Sincerely,

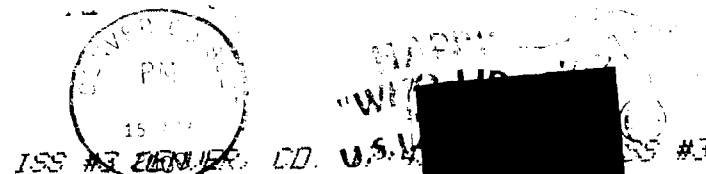


Suzanne M. Wuerthele, Ph.D.

99F-2673

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